

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05862 220904Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-13

ACDA-07 /092 W

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O R 220810Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5446

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJ: GOI PROTESTS APRIL 20 INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER

INCIDENT

REF: NEW DELHI 5796

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A GOI PRESS NOTE CONCERNING AN ALLEGED CLASH ON THE INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER APRIL 20. THE DELHI PRESS OF APRIL 22 GAVE THE STORY PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE:

(A) "THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, WHICH YESTERDAY LODGED A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI REGARDING SERIOUS INCIDENTS ON THE INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER ON APRIL 19, 1976, HAS AGAIN PROTESTED EMPHATICALLY  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05862 220904Z

AGAINST YET ANOTHER SERIOUS INCIDENT ON APRIL 20 WHICH

OCCURRED ON THE INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER.

(B) "AT 5-30 A.M. ON APRIL 20, 1976, WHILE AN INDIAN BSF PATROL WAS PASSING NEAR THE DUMNIKURA BORDER OUTPOST IN THE GARO HILLS DISTRICT OF MEGHALAYA INSIDE INDIAN TERRITORY ON ROUTINE DUTY, THEY CAME UNDER UNPROVOKED HEAVY FIRE WITH MORTARS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FROM THE BANGLADESH SIDE OF THE BORDER.

(C) "AT FIRST, THE INDIAN PATROL TRIED TO WITHDRAW TO AVOID UNNECESSARY ENGAGEMENT BUT WHEN THE FIRING CONTINUED AND WAS EVEN INTENSIFIED, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES COMPELLED TO RETURN THE FIRE IN SELF-DEFENCE. AS A RESULT OF THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE, THERE WERE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT VIOLATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER AND DISTURBANCES OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE AREA.

(D) "THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS NOTED WITH REGRET AND CONCERN THAT THESE INCIDENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT A TIME WHEN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE GOING ON ON VARIOUS ISSUES TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

2. THE APRIL 22 PRESS FURTHER REPORTED AN OFFICIAL INDIAN DENIAL OF A "DACCA REPORT" THAT INDIA HAD DECLINED TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BORDER SECURITY FORCES APRIL 20. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCE OF THE SHILLONG AREA REPORTEDLY MET WITH HIS BG COUNTERPART ON APRIL 21 AT DAWKI, NEAR SHILLONG. THE APRIL 20 MEETING WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTED WHEN THE BG REPRESENTATIVE MAINTAINED THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE APRIL 19 INCIDENT.

3. THE "TIMES OF INDIA" REPORTS THAT "THE FRESH BURST OF SHOOTING ALONG THE BORDER IS SEEN AS YET ANOTHER DIVERSIONARY TACTIC BY BANGLADESH, IT HAVING NEARLY EXHAUSTED ITS AMMUNITION IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 05862 220904Z

ON THE FARAKKA ISSUE."

4. THE ONLY DELHI PAPER TO EDITORIALIZE ON BANGLADESH APRIL 22 IS THE CONGRESS-ALIGNED "NATIONAL HERALD." THE PAPER STATES THAT THE CLASHES CAN NOT BE CONSIDERED THE WORK OF "HOT HEADS" GIVEN THE "VITUPERATIVE CAMPAIGN" IN THE BG PRESS AGAINST INDIA. THE "HERALD" SEES LITTLE PROSPECT OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION, CITING

THE "UNDECLARED WAR ON FARAKKA." DACCA MAY BE  
"RAISING THE STAKES DELIBERATELY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSES  
HOW FAR IT CAN GO," BUT IF THAT IS THE STRATEGY, THE  
BDG IS "SADLY MISTAKEN." THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT THE  
DETERIORATING ECONOMIC AND LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN  
BANGLADESH IS THE MORE PROBABLE EXPLANATION FOR  
DACCA'S CLAIMING AN EXTERNAL THREAT.

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE FROM DACCA 2020 THAT THE BDG  
CLAIMS THAT THE APRIL 20 SHELLING TOOK PLACE IN THE HALUAGHAT  
AREA OF MYMENSINGH DISTRICT, WHEREAS THE GOI SAYS THAT  
THE CLASH TOOK PLACE IN THE GARO HILLS DISTRICT OF  
MEGHALAYA. IT IS THEREFORE NOT CLEAR WHETHER EACH SIDE  
IS MERELY OFFERING ITS VERSION OF THE SAME INCIDENT  
OR WHETHER THERE WERE SEPARATE CLASHES IN EACH PLACE.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D760152-0629  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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